

Fat Wife 2011

Chapter 2011: Lose Everything

“You good-for-nothing! You still have the cheek to come back! Do you know how humiliated your younger sister and I were when we went to the Xia family’s place today! Do you know how that family treated us!” Old Madam Kong said angrily.

“Who says you can go and look for Xia He!” Kong Lu looked at Old Madam Kong in shock and questioned her.

“If I don’t go and look for her, am I supposed to wait for you to do it? It’s all your fault, you piece of trash. If you have managed to win back Xia He again, I won’t be in such a difficult situation now!” Old Madam Kong said as she sighed.

Kong Lu did not say anything. He was already numb to the antics of this family. Even if Old Madam Kong told him that she wanted to marry an old man, he would not find it strange.

Old Madam Kong scolded him for a long time before she stopped. She looked at Kong Lu in disdain and said, “Give me another 100 dollars. Your two younger brothers don’t have any money left and can’t even afford to buy food. You should help them out.”

“I already gave them money last month. I only have four dollars left now. I

haven’t received this month’s salary, so I don’t have any money to give them,” Kong Lu said.

“You don’t have money? If you don’t have money, then think of a way to get some! Go and borrow money from Xia He! If you can hold on to Xia He, will we still need to live like this? Look at the house that she lives in. It’s such a big house and there’s enough space for our entire family!”

“Quickly think of a way to persuade Xia He to come back to you! Your younger sister and I even knelt in front of her today! It was so embarrassing!” Old Madam Kong shouted.

Kong Lu said whatever he needed to say to get Old Madam Kong to calm down. He would think about how to deal with it later.

In the coming days, Kong Lu went to work as usual. All of a sudden, his superiors asked him to pack his things and go back to his hometown. The promotion he was waiting for had already been given to someone else.

Old Madam Kong also received news from her hometown that her two sons had been arrested by the local police. They were suspected of being involved in gambling, prostitution, theft and intentional assault, among other crimes.

Her second son was jailed for at least five years and her third son was even jailed for 12 years! Now, there were only women and children left in the Kong family. Almost all the men were in prison.

“Kong Lu! What exactly is going on! What’s going to happen to your younger brothers!” Old Madam Kong wept as she spoke to Kong Lu.

“What else can we do? I told you to discipline them back then, but what did you do? They have ended up like this because you didn’t teach them well! There’s nothing I can do!” Kong Lu said.

“You’re their eldest brother! Who’s going to help them if you don’t!” Old Madam Kong roared.

“You’re their mother! Why don’t you help them! I don’t even have a job now! This house has already been taken back! We have to pack up and go home tomorrow! I don’t know how we’re going to survive in the future!” Kong Lu said as he broke down.

“What? What are you talking about? How can you have lost your job?” Old Madam Kong asked in surprise.

“It’s all thanks to you. The Xia family and Sun Fei from downstairs went to my superior to report all those things you did! My position has now been taken over by someone else! Are you satisfied now? From now on, I’ll just go home and farm. I want to see what else you want to do next,” Kong Lu said.

“Then what about your younger brothers!” Old Madam Kong shouted agitatedly.

“You should be glad that the Xia family is merciful. They only have to stay in prison for a few years. Just the fact that they tried to abduct a girl! That’s enough for them to be executed 800 times!” Kong Lu said.

In this era, anyone who molested a girl would be arrested and deemed to be a hooligan! If one went around kissing a girl! One could get the death penalty!

Furthermore, Kong Lu’s two younger brothers had bullied more than one girl!

The Xia family was already very benevolent. Otherwise, it would already be the third death anniversary for Kong Lu’s two younger brothers!

Kong Lu left the capital dejectedly with Old Madam Kong and Kong Li. Xia He could finally get a good night’s sleep. Recently, Qiao Mei had stayed by Qiao Qiang’s side every day and observed his emotions carefully. When she was sure that he could face the Gao family’s grandfather-and grandson duo calmly, she gathered everyone together so that she could tell them about what happened back in the past.

Qiao Mei also asked Xu Lan and Xia Wen to join them. She needed to let the Xia family know what was going on and did not want to hide anything from them..

Chapter 2012: No One Can Get Away Scot-free

“Grandfather, the truth is... My grandmother’s real name is Gao Tao. Back then, she was attacked by some people. That was why she was disfigured,” Qiao Mei said.

“What happened?” Qiao Qiang asked with a frown.

Qiao Mei told Qiao Qiang about everything that happened back then, up to the point about how Liang Jin and Zhang Cheng died in the end. She only kept the matter about Liang Shu a secret.

Liang Shu truly did not know that Qiao Qiang's first wife was Gao Tao and it was a fact that she had given Qiao Qiang two children. However, Liang Shu was actually an accomplice in Gao Tao's death. She definitely played a part in Gao Tao's death.

If Qiao Qiang found out about the fact that he had raised two children with the person who killed his beloved wife, he definitely would not be able to accept it.

"I thought that Wen Ran... I should call her Gao Tao now. I thought that Gao Tao was just an orphan who had a hard life, but I didn't expect her to have gone through so much. I didn't help her to kill her enemy. I should bear responsibility for that," Qiao Qiang said dejectedly.

"Brother-in-law, don't blame yourself. It's my elder sister's good fortune to have met you. You've already done a lot for her. I heard from Qiao Mei that my elder sister had a blissful life in her later years. That's good enough. Moreover, Qiao Mei is the one who planned for Liang Jin and Zhang Cheng to meet their deaths and make them suffer the consequences of their own actions. In a way, we've already avenged my elder sister," Gao Lin said as he looked at Qiao Qiang.

"The deceased is already gone. I hope Gao Tao will have a better life in her next life," Qiao Qiang said melancholically.

Qiao Mei and Xia Wen led Xu Lan out of the room and gave Qiao Qiang and the Gao family some private time. They definitely had a lot to catch up on.

Xia Wen quietly pulled Qiao Mei aside and said, "I'm guessing that this matter isn't as simple as you describe."

"As expected of Eldest Brother. You're still as sharp as ever," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"If those people overseas have been dealt with, are there any left in this country? What do you plan to do next?" Xia Wen asked directly.

"It's Liang Shu, but I've already set a trap for her before I left. I reckon their family is in a tizzy now!" Qiao Mei said.

“So this is why you asked me to send medicinal wine to them!” Xia Wen was suddenly enlightened. He had thought that Qiao Mei was kind-hearted and wanted Liang Shu to have a full recovery. He did not expect Qiao Mei to want to start a fight in their family.

Liang Shu treated the bottle of medicinal wine like a treasure. Even when she went to the toilet or went to bed, she kept it with her and never let it out of her

In the beginning, Liang Lan and Liang Guo would still coax Liang Shu into handing over the bottle of medicinal wine to them. Liang Guo and Liang Lan had once again reached a bottleneck in their jobs. He Ning would not help them anymore, so they could only make use of the medicinal wine to fight for an opportunity.

They said all kinds of nice things, but Liang Shu refused to give them the medicinal wine. She even chased Liang Guo and Liang Lan out of the Liang family’s old house. The siblings fell out with Liang Shu completely.

Liang Shu was already advanced in age and she had not fully recovered yet. Although she could still do things like cooking and washing clothes, she was helpless when it came to manual work like doing repairs and chopping firewood.

Her children did not care about her and her neighbors turned a blind eye to it as well. Her days were tough, but she was willing to let it be. As long as she could keep the medicinal wine in her possession, it was worth it no matter how hard life was! This was her lifesaver!

As the days passed, Liang Lan and Liang Guo began to face more issues in their careers. They had to settle it quickly. Liang Shu’s birthday was coming up in two days’ time and they planned to return to the Liang family’s old house that day to steal the medicinal wine.

They did not speak to one another. Liang Lan still had some conscience and had ordered a birthday cake for Liang Shu so that it at least felt like a birthday celebration. Liang Guo did not bring anything with him. He thought it was already good enough that he came back to visit Liang Shu!

Liang Shu t s birthday banquet ended awkwardly. Liang Lan and Liang Guo gave some excuses and said that they had to hurry home.

Late at night, Qiao Mei drove slowly towards the Liang family's old house. She went to a corner of the wall and planted a vine seed there. Old folks usually went to bed early. At this moment, Liang Shu was already lying on the bed and sleeping soundly with the bottle of medicinal wine in her hands.

Qiao Mei directed the vines into the house and slowly wrapped them around the medicinal wine bottle. These vines were as thin as silk. Even if someone saw them, they would think that it was some type of green yarn and would not see it for what it was..

Chapter 2013: Fight for the Medicinal Wine

Just as Qiao Mei had expected, Liang Guo and Liang Lan were about to make their move. The first one to arrive was Liang Lan. She tiptoed into the Liang family's old house. She had specially stolen her uncle, Liang Can's key for this. She knew Liang Shu's schedule very well. By now, Liang Shu was already sleeping soundly.

She slowly pushed open Liang Shu's door. After confirming that Liang Shu did not wake up, she reached out to grab the bottle in Liang Shu's hands. She did not expect to use so much strength that it woke Liang Shu up.

Liang Shu grabbed the bottle tightly as she groggily saw a person in front of her. Under the moonlight, she could clearly tell that it was Liang Lan. She sat up and shouted, "I just know that you won't give up! That you'll definitely come and steal my medicinal wine! What a bastard! How did I give birth to a daughter like you!"

Since she had already been exposed, Liang Lan decided to go all out and snatch the bottle of medicinal wine. During the struggle, Liang Shu fell off the bed, making Liang Lan pause for a moment.

"Ouch..." Liang Shu wailed in pain as she lay on the floor.

At this moment, Liang Guo rushed into the room. He looked at his mother who was on the floor and his hesitant sister nearby. Without another word, he went forward to snatch the bottle of medicinal wine

from Liang Lan's hands. How could a woman win against a muscular man? Soon, the bottle was in Liang Guo's hands.

"You can't take it away just like that! I got here first!" Liang Lan roared angrily.

"The medicinal wine belongs to whoever has it!" Liang Guo turned around to leave after saying that.

Qiao Mei suddenly tightened her grip on the vines and the glass bottle instantly shattered. The medicinal wine seemed to have a life of its own and disappeared into the floor in an instant. Liang Guo could not even save a single drop.

"No! How can this be! I didn't do anything! How can this happen!" Liang Guo collapsed and wailed as he looked at the broken pieces of glass on the floor.

"Hahahahaha! And you want to snatch it from me! Look at what has happened! No one can get it! No one can get it! Are you satisfied now!" Liang Lan said mockingly to Liang Guo.

When Liang Shu saw this, she immediately fainted. Her entire body convulsed and she foamed at the mouth.

Liang Lan was so shocked that she quickly held on to Liang Shu and shouted, "Mother! Mother, what's wrong! Don't scare me! Elder Brother, call for help!" "You do it if you want! I don't care!" Liang Guo said.

"Do you even have any conscience! This is our mother! How can you leave her to die!" Liang Lan said in shock.

"If you have a conscience, then you can save her! I don't have any spare money to save her!" After saying that, Liang Guo was about to leave the Liang family's old house when Liang Lan hurriedly pounced towards the door and grabbed Liang Guo's leg tightly to prevent him from leaving.

As she tugged at his leg, she shouted, "Help! My mother is dying! Please help me! My elder brother made my mother so angry that she fainted! Yet he wants to leave!"

“What nonsense are you saying! Let me go now!” Liang Guo said anxiously.

Liang Lan’s shouts alerted the neighbors. They put on their coats and rushed towards the Liang family residence. As soon as they entered, they saw Liang Guo and Liang Lan in a fight. Liang Shu was lying on the floor next to the bed and no one was paying any attention to her.

“The two of you, stop fighting! Send your mother to the hospital now!”

“Are you siblings or not! Is this the time to fight?”

“It’ll be too late in a while! Go to the hospital now!” All the neighbors shouted at the same time.

Most of the neighbors here were some kind of big-shots back in their time. Although they did not like Liang Shu t s way of doing things, they were all old now and could not bear to see anyone’s children being unfilial.

Liang Guo and Liang Lan were pulled apart by the neighbors. At first, neither of them wanted to go to the hospital, but in the end, the neighbors dragged them there. It was not up to them to decide if they wanted to go or not.

After the doctor’s intervention, Liang Shu t s life was saved. However, her condition was worse than the last time as she had suffered a more serious stroke this time round.

It was not until five days later that Liang Shu gained consciousness. She could not even speak and had totally lost control of her bowels and bladder. Sometimes, she was not even fully conscious.

Liang Lan really could not stand the condition which Liang Shu was in. She said angrily to Liang Guo, “I took care of Mother the last time. It’s your turn now! ”

“What do you mean by it’s my turn? Isn’t she your mother too? Besides, I’m a man, how can I take care of her? It’s not convenient!” Liang Guo said..

Chapter 2014: Not Taking Care of the Elder

“Don’t give me all this rubbish! Don’t you have a wife? Can’t she do it? I’m going home! This has nothing to do with me! Don’t come and bother me in the future!” Liang Lan left the hospital after saying that.

Liang Guo went to the nurse station and asked to use the phone. At this moment, Bai Ming was playing with Liang Zu at home!

“My darling, wait a moment. Mom needs to answer the call.” After saying that,

Bai Ming went to pick up the phone. “Hello, this is the Liang family.” “Bai Ming, my mother is sick. Can you come and visit her?” Liang Guo said.

“What has your mother’s illness got to do with me? I’m not going,” Bai Ming said disdainfully.

“Everyone is here except for you. It won’t look good if you don’t come. Why don’t you just make a trip down to take a look?” Liang Guo begged.

Bai Ming thought about it and decided to go. Not long after, she arrived at the hospital, dressed up to the nines. The moment she entered the ward, she could smell the stench coming from Liang Shu and she quickly covered her mouth and nose.

“Oh my goodness! What is this smell! How can you ask me to come to such a place! Didn’t you say that everyone is here? Where are they! What do you mean when you say everyone is here?” Bai Ming said while suppressing her nausea.

“My mother is sick! Help me take care of her. I’m a man and it’s not convenient for me to do it,” Liang Guo said.

“Where’s your younger sister? It’s not my mother who’s sick, so why should I wait on her? It’s already good enough that I have come to the hospital to visit her! You still want me to wait on her? Don’t even think about it!” Bai Ming said agitatedly.

“You’re the Liang family’s daughter-in-law! My mother is your mother! You have the responsibility and obligation to take care of her!” Liang Guo said as he grabbed Bai Mings wrist tightly.

“What a joke! When did your mother treat me like the Liang family’s daughter-in-law! When my parents were sick, did you take care of them for even one day? How can you have the cheek to say that you want me to wait on your mother! You’re shameless! I still have to go home and take care of my son!” Bai Ming said.

Liang Guo sneered and said, “It’s the helper who takes care of our son. Don’t give me such excuses. You just want to be with your toy boy! Don’t think that I don’t know you’re having an affair! If you don’t want your reputation to be ruined, then stay here and take care of my mother!”

Bai Ming shook off Liang Guo’s hand forcefully and said with a laugh, “Then feel free to come at me! Do you have any evidence? Besides, you can’t even afford to pay for all our household expenses with your current salary. If not for my parents giving us money, do you think you can still live such a carefree life? The house we live in was bought by my parents. If you want a divorce, you’ll have to leave with nothing. When that happens, even your son won’t acknowledge you!

Liang Guo stood rooted to the spot in silence. This was the main reason why he did not do anything about Bai Mings affairs. He did not want to lose his current lifestyle. This was the last bit of dignity he had.

Seeing that Liang Guo did not reply, Bai Ming walked out of the ward openly. She did not want to stay there for even another second. If she had some free time, she would rather go for a beauty treatment!

Liang Guo left after taking care of Liang Shu for just one day, leaving her behind alone in the ward. A few medical staff felt sorry for Liang Shu, so they helped to change her diapers and wipe down her body. However, this was not a long-term solution and the medical staff were all very busy with their own work. They could not take care of Liang Shu full time like the nurses.

During the next few days, it was very quiet in the Liang family. Liang Guo considered all his options and finally decided to go to Qiao Mei's house. Since Qiao Mei was the one who saved Liang Shu when she had a stroke the last time, Qiao Mei could also save her again this time. Even if Liang Guo managed to get some medicinal wine, he did not intend to give it to Liang Shu. This was a treasure that could help him get promoted and become rich!

"Why are you here? Have you made an appointment in advance?" Da Zhuang had met Liang Guo before and felt that the Liang family members were all scoundrels. Luo Yu had repeatedly reminded them not to let any of the Liang family members into the house, otherwise Qiao Mei and the others would be furious.

"I see that she's a big shot now. Does one need to make an appointment to see her now? I'm your boss's biological uncle. Ask her to come out and meet me," Liang Guo said.

"Really? But the lady of the house says that she doesn't want to see anyone from the Liang family!" Da Zhuang said arrogantly..

Chapter 2015: Save My Mother

Seeing this, Liang Guo crouched over the steps and cried out, "Qiao Mei! You have to save your grandmother! Your grandmother had a stroke and can't get up now! You have to help us!"

When the neighbors heard the commotion, they quickly opened their doors to look out. They did not have any hobbies and only liked to keep up with gossip, especially gossip related to Qiao Mei and the Xia family. Most of these people were from ordinary families. Although they also lived in courtyard houses, each house was shared by many families. They were all very curious about the lifestyle of the rich people, so they were especially curious about Qiao Mei and the Xia family.

"Tell him to get lost," Qiao Mei sat inside the house and said to Xiao Zhuang unhappily.

Xiao Zhuang returned to the door to pass Qiao Mei's message and Liang Guo became even more aggressive. He raised his voice and shouted, "Father! Aren't you going to visit my mother? My mother is

so sick that she can't get up! Father, please save my mother! I beg you! It's good enough if you can just go and take a look at her!"

Everyone around here had only seen Liang Lan in the past and had never seen Liang Guo come here to plead for help. Most of the people living in the area were elderly and they were very touched by Liang Guo's actions. In their eyes, Liang Guo was a filial son who was concerned about his mother's health.

"Look at this kid. He's so pitiful. He's willing to kneel outside someone's door for the sake of his mother. It's so tragic."

"Isn't that so! What a good kid! If my son can do the same, I can really die without regrets! "

"Who's his father? Is it Old Man Qiao? I can't tell that Old Man Qiao is

someone who will abandon his wife and children.'

"Nothing is certain! You can't judge a book by its cover!"

Everyone gossiped about Qiao Mei and her family. This was exactly what Liang Guo wanted to achieve. He held back his glee and continued to lament about his difficulties outside the door.

It did not take long for Qiao Qiang to hear about this. He came to the front yard and said, "Mei Mei, what's going on outside?"

"I just asked someone to investigate it thoroughly. They made Liang Shu so angry that she was admitted to the hospital again. She had a stroke and just regained consciousness within the past two days, but she's paralyzed now. It looks like they have come to beg us because they don't have any other options," Qiao Mei said.

"Sigh... what a sin!" Qiao Qiang said.

Although Liang Shu was his ex-wife, he still could not bear to see her like this. It was not that he still had feelings for her, but he just felt that she was living a miserable life. He would pity anyone who was going through the same thing as her.

“Grandfather, you can go back to your place. He’ll leave after he’s done wailing,” Qiao Mei said.

“I’ll go out and put a stop to this. Otherwise, he’ll still come tomorrow and the day after.” After saying that, Qiao Qiang walked towards the door.

When Liang Guo saw Qiao Qiang, he quickly crawled towards Qiao Qiang and yelled out, “Father! Please go and see my mother! My mother misses you! Only you can save my mother now!”

“Don’t address me as Father. I’m not your father. Back when your mother and I divorced, we agreed that we would never see each other again. You should go,” Qiao Qiang said forcefully.

“But you must still have feelings for each other after being husband and wife for so many years! You must miss my mother a little! Father, please go and visit my mother!” Liang Guo said.

Qiao Mei rushed to the door and shouted angrily at Liang Guo, “Your mother was so angry at you and your sister that she had a stroke and was hospitalized. What does it have to do with our family? My grandmother is long dead! She’s definitely not my grandmother!”

Liang Guo looked at Qiao Mei in shock. How did Qiao Mei know about this? Did the neighbors around the Liang familrs old house leak the news? “I was under the impression that he is a filial son! In the end, this is how it turns out!”

“I must be blind. How can I sympathize with such a person!”

“He actually has the cheek to come to Qiao Mei’s place to get the medicine! What is he thinking!”

The neighbors were starting to side with Qiao Mei. Liang Guo felt a little embarrassed as he crouched on the ground, but he could not care less now. As long as he could get the medicinal wine from Qiao Mei, did it even matter if his reputation was damaged?

“It’s not like that! My mother’s life is in danger now. As long as you give me some medicinal wine, my mother’s life will be saved! As the saying goes, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-story pagoda! You must help me!” Liang Guo begged.

“I can’t save her. You should go. There’s no more medicinal wine,” Qiao Qiang said.

“No more? How is that possible?” Liang Guo said as he looked at Qiao Qiang in shock..

Chapter 2016: Weep Endlessly

“Why should I lie to you? All the medicinal wine is with the Xia family. The Xia family doesn’t even have enough for themselves now, so they won’t be able to share any. You should go back,” Qiao Qiang said.

Much earlier, the Xia family had given their medicinal wine to many people. So long as it was someone who had done the Xia family a favor in the past, Xia Wen would give them one bottle if they came to ask for it. Later on, he set a limit and would only give out two bottles a month. By now, he had already stopped giving it out.

This was also to prevent people from hoarding the medicinal wine because they believed in its longevity effect. If someone could not resist the temptation and became a target for He Ning, it would only be detrimental to the person.

Liang Guo was not a fool. He clearly knew that the medicinal wine came from Qiao Mei, not the Xia family. As long as he could grab hold of Qiao Mei, he would have an endless supply of medicinal wine. Qiao Qiang was only using the Xia family as an excuse.

“Father! Just give me some! I know you must still have some left! You can’t just watch my mother die!” Liang Guo said.

“My surname is Qiao! As for Qiao Mei’s husband, his surname is Xia! Your surname is Liang, so how are you related to us? Leave this place now! Otherwise, I’ll get someone to throw you out!” Qiao Qiang said.

“Da Zhuang, Xiao Zhuang! Send him out!” After saying that, Qiao Mei helped Qiao Qiang back into the house.

Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang understood what she meant. They grabbed Liang Guo and escorted him out of the alley. The people standing around only returned home after watching Liang Guo leave the premises.

Qiao Mei was still worried about this issue. Liang Guo would not come again today, but there was no guarantee tomorrow. She had heard that the Liang siblings would lose their jobs soon. They would do anything, no matter how nasty, in order to keep their jobs.

She quickly got into her car and drove to Xia Wen’s office. There, she heard from the security guard that Xia Wen’s office was now located on the fourth floor rather than the third floor. Xia Wen had been promoted and Qiao Mei had not even congratulated him yet.

Qiao Mei knocked on Xia Wen’s door politely and then pushed it open. As she entered, she said, “Eldest Brother, why didn’t you tell us that you were promoted... You...”

The moment Qiao Mei entered the room, she saw a woman leaning towards Xia Wen. The woman even pretended to trip and fall into Xia Wen’s arms, and then looked at him with teary eyes. Anyone who did not know better would think that she had suffered a great grievance!

Qiao Mei found this woman quite familiar. After thinking for a long time, she realized that this person was Shi Rui, the daughter of one of the uncles of the Xu family! She did not expect this woman to be here!

“I just got promoted and haven’t had the chance to announce it yet,” Xia Wen said calmly.

Qiao Mei entered the room and closed the door gently. If other people saw Shi Rui behaving like this, who knew what kind of rumors they could come up with!

“I’m not here for anything important. I have just come to ask you if you want to go home together. Mother has already prepared dinner and is waiting for us.” Qiao Mei acted as if she did not see Shi Rui and was only focused on talking to Xia Wen.

“Yes, I’m done with my work. Let’s go home and accompany Mother this afternoon,” Xia Wen said with a smile.

He had thought that Qiao Mei would misunderstand the situation, but he did not expect her to be so sensible and to handle this matter in such a tactful manner. He had been unnecessarily worried earlier.

Shi Rui turned away and wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes. Then, she turned around with a smile and asked Qiao Mei, “When did you come back?”

“It’s been quite a while,” Qiao Mei said coldly.

“I see. When are you free? I’ll go to your house for a visit. I miss you very much when you’re not around. I have a lot of things to tell you!” Shi Rui said fervently.

“Really? Are we that close? I’m not that close to Uncle Xu of the Xu family. Besides, I’m not free nowadays. We’ll see how it goes in the future,” Qiao Mei said.

After coming back, Qiao Mei had not even caught up with Qian’e, so why would she have the time to meet Shi Rui? It was clear that Shi Rui must be up to no good and she did not want to invite a wolf into her house.

Shi Rui stood there awkwardly. She had always been eloquent since she was young and she also looked dignified and classy. Everyone was always full of praises for her and no one would ever say no to her. This was the first time she had encountered someone as blunt as Qiao Mei.

Seeing that Xia Wen was about to leave, Shi Rui did not stay around any longer. After Shi Rui left, Xia Wen packed his things and left with Qiao Mei. The two of them did not speak along the way and it was only when they got into the car that Qiao Mei asked the question she had been keeping inside.

“Eldest Brother, why is that woman in your office?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Sigh... It’s a long story...” Xia Wen said dolefully..

Chapter 2017: Entangled

After MO Zhu found out she was pregnant, she stayed at home to rest. The office needed someone to take over her work, so they hired a new staff member. During that period of time, Xia Wen was so busy with the collaboration between the government and Qiao Mei’s factory that he did not take notice of who MO Zhu’s replacement was. It was only when everything was settled that Xia Wen realized it was Shi Rui!

“I’ve been very careful all this while, but I never expected her to be able to find an opportunity to come to my office,” Xia Wen said helplessly.

During the past few years, Shi Rui had kept trying to contact him. Every time the Xia family held a family banquet, Xu Ju would purposely bring Shi Rui along. As time passed, Shi Rui got used to doing things this way.

MO Zhu knew that Shi Rui did not come with good intentions, but she did not have the time to care about these things. As long as Xia Wen was faithful to her, she did not care about anything else. She had full trust in Xia Wen.

“So why did she come and look for you?” Qiao Mei asked.

“It’s nothing more than to tell me about what’s happening in her family. After you left, there were earth-shattering changes in the Xu family. I haven’t had the chance to tell you about these things yet,” Xia Wen said.

Xu Man had gotten quite good results in the college entrance examination results that year. She managed to get admitted into the university she wanted and from then on, she completely cut off all

contact with her family. Xu Ju had no intention to look for Xu Man either. To her, it was not a bad thing to have one less person to feed at home. She could not be happier about this!

Xu Jiao was not so promising. She attended classes again and retook the exams but she still did not manage to get admitted to university even after two years. Xu Ju was really angry about this and had started making plans to marry Xu Jiao off.

All these were nothing too interesting. The biggest piece of news was probably the fact that Xu Ju had found out she was pregnant! She managed to get pregnant at such an advanced age! Xu Ju was very happy about this and had asked Xu Lan to bring her to Xia Fangs hospital for a checkup and to find out if the baby was a boy or a girl. When the scans showed that it was a boy, Xu Ju became even happier and the Xu family had set off firecrackers to celebrate the occasion!

Xu Ju t s husband, Zhang Leng, was not in such a good mood though. He knew very well that the child Xu Ju was carrying was not his. They had not shared the same bed for many years.

“And so they fought with each other. Xu Ju almost had a miscarriage after getting beaten up by Zhang Leng. The Xu family called the police and Zhang Leng was arrested. This issue is still pending, so Shi Rui used this as a reason to come and look for me, saying that she wants to help Xu Ju out,” Xia Wen said.

“How interesting. I didn’t expect it to be so exciting around here while I was away! Xu Ju is really amazing. She is still expecting a child at her age. Won’t this endanger her life?” Qiao Mei asked.

“You’ve hit the nail on the head. Shi Rui has come to ask me for that ‘divine medicine’ to protect Xu Ju’s baby!” Xia Wen said.

“This is really... unbelievable... Even Xu Jiao isn’t so worried about Xu Ju t s health. It’s Shi Rui who seems more worried. I’m now even more curious about how this whole story will conclude!” Qiao Mei said excitedly.

“Alright, alright, let’s go home now! Why are you here to look for me today?” Xia Wen asked.

“I was so focused on your issue that I almost forgot about what I’m here for. Let’s talk about it when we get home.” After saying that, Qiao Mei focused on driving back to Xu Lan’s place.

During this period of time, Xu Lan had been taking care of the children. She spent all her time with her grandchildren every day and she smiled a lot more nowadays. In fact, she looked even younger now!

Qiao Mei told Xia Wen about what happened this morning. Xia Wen immediately said, "Shall I transfer them out of town?"

"So smart! Eldest Brother really knows what I'm thinking!" Qiao Mei said.

"Alright, leave this matter to me." After saying that, Xia Wen called someone he knew well and gave that person some instructions.

Not long after, Liang Guo received a transfer notice. His current job was an administrative role in a government district department in the capital. Now, he was going to be transferred to a remote town to become the head of a department there.

He did not hesitate at all and immediately accepted the transfer. As the saying went, better the head of a dog than the tail of a lion. Even though he was only the head of department in a remote town, the title sounded nice enough!

He was given very little time to report at his new workplace and there was only one car heading there from the capital. He quickly packed his luggage and left the capital the next day to take up his new post there, completely forgetting about Liang Shu.

Liang Lan also received a similar transfer. She was sent to the same town as Liang Guo, but in a different department. Liang Lan made the same decision as Liang Guo..

Chapter 2018: Left School

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and said to Xia Wen, "Eldest Brother, Liang Shu is so pitiful to be left behind in the capital. Why don't we send her to be with her children?"

“Sure.” Xia Wen immediately contacted the medical staff and told them to escort Liang Shu to that remote town. The town had a small population and everyone knew one another. If Liang Guo and Liang Lan did not take care of Liang Shu, it would not be too good for their reputations.

Qiao Mei sat at home and started to imagine what Liang Guo and Liang Lan would have to go through in the future. Just thinking about it made her feel great! It was a fantastic resolution to the issue.

“Eldest Brother, you must keep tabs on Shi Rui. If she’s planning something, you won’t be able to guard against her!” Qiao Mei reminded him.

“Yes, I’ll remember that. Seeing what Shao Yin did to Xia Xing, I will definitely be on my guard. I won’t do anything to let MO Zhu down,” Xia Wen said.

It had been some time since Qiao Mei came back. It was time for her to go to Capital University to settle the graduation procedure. Since she had studied abroad as an exchange student, she was in a different scheme from the rest of the students who never left the country. The others had to study for four years, but Qiao Mei only needed two years.

The entire batch of exchange students had gone to different schools overseas, so there was no requirement for them to settle the graduation procedure together. There were a few students who were not able to persevere after just one month overseas and had then requested to return to the capital. There were not many students like Qiao Mei, who managed to complete their studies overseas.

Qiao Mei had not seen Wu Duo and the others for a long time. She did not know if they had managed to fulfill their promise to her back then. According to their plan, by the time it was Qiao Mei’s second year in Country M, they should have gotten the spots to study overseas.

After returning to school, Qiao Mei asked around and found out that none of the three had gone overseas to study. They were still a little lacking in their knowledge, but if they had a chance to try again this year, they would probably be able to pass the test.

Qiao Mei had arranged to have a meal with them at cafeteria A, but unexpectedly, only Wang Wei and Li Xue showed up.

“Eh? Where’s Wu Duo? He’s always very enthusiastic about food. Why isn’t he here today!” Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

Wang Wei and Li Xue had strange expressions on their faces. They did not know how to tell Qiao Mei about what happened back then. The truth was that Wu Duo had already been expelled from school!

“He... he’s not in school anymore,” Li Xue said hesitantly.

“Not in school anymore? Where else can he be? Is he sick?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Don’t be too agitated after hearing the news. We’ll tell you the story slowly,” Wang Wei said by way of comfort.

Qiao Mei immediately became serious. She looked at Wang Wei calmly and said, “What happened?”

“Wu Duo was expelled from the school two months after you left. The reason was because... because he had an affair with a married woman. Someone found out about it and came to confront him. The school expelled Wu Duo for the sake of their reputation,” Li Xue said.

“What? An affair with a married woman? Are you mistaken?” Qiao Mei asked Li Xue in shock.

If Wu Duo had that kind of ulterior motive, he would have made a move on Qiao Mei when they were in high school. Qiao Mei did not believe that there was any married woman in this world who was more beautiful than her. Moreover, Wu Duo was a decent person. He was upright and it was impossible for him to do such an underhanded thing.

“There’s no mistake. There are even witnesses. Those people saw it all,” Wang Wei said.

“Who’s that woman?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Sigh... You won’t believe me even if I tell you. That woman is Cui Hua!” Li Xue said furiously.

“That’s even more impossible!” Qiao Mei immediately realized that Wu Duo had been plotted against. If a sinister person like Xie Jing ganged up with Cui Hua, it would be easy for the two of them to plot against Wu Duo.

After Qiao Mei calmed down, she asked, “Where is Wu Duo now?”

“This matter has blown up so much that he can’t even go home, He lives in a village in the city now and basically doesn’t leave his house. We’ve tried to talk to him over the past two years, but he refused to come out. We can only leave the things we bring for him outside the door and then we have to go off. The good thing is that he will still open the door and accept our gifts,” Li Xue said.

“Let’s eat first. After we’re done, let’s go and visit him,” Qiao Mei said.

The three of them finished their meal in silence, Qiao Mei analyzed what Li Xue and Wang Wei had just told her over and over again in her mind. Xie Jing and Cui Hua had gone too far. Qiao Mei should have known that Xie Jing would not let Wu Duo off so easily..

Chapter 2019: Visit Wu Duo

After they finished their meal, Qiao Mei drove Li Xue and Wang Wei to Wu Duo’s current accommodation. This village was not very big. Once they entered the village, Qiao Mei took a closer look around. The villagers all looked very kind and it seemed that this village was a very friendly place.

When they first spotted Wu Duo, he was harvesting vegetables in the courtyard. His clothes were tattered and he was so thin that he was only skin and bones. Before Qiao Mei left the capital, Wu Duo was a bright and cheerful young man. At 1.8 meters tall and weighing 150 pounds, he was a good-looking kid. Now, he looked like a deformed and malnourished kid.

The moment Wu saw Qiao Mei, he thought that he was seeing things. He could not help but rub his eyes with his hands. After confirming that this was not a dream, his joy turned into fear. He suddenly stood

up, rushed into the house and locked the door. No matter how they shouted out at him, he did not open the door.

“Wu Duo! Open the door and let’s have a chat. It’s not easy for me to come back from Country M. Don’t you want to talk to me? Why are we so distant now?” Qiao Mei leaned against the door frame and yelled into the house at Wu Duo.

“Mentor! Please leave! I’m too ashamed to see you! Just take it that you never had me as your disciple! I can’t embarrass you! Don’t be concerned about me anymore from now on!” Wu Duo said in a choked voice.

“Such nonsense. You took an oath that you would show me how vibrant life can be and you even said that you would repay me. Is this how you repay me?” Qiao Mei said.

Wu Duo slowly slid down against the door and sat down. He hugged his knees and buried his head in his arms as he wailed loudly. He had never vented his frustration this whole time. He had kept everything inside for too long.

Qiao Mei and the others did not continue talking to Wu Duo. They just stayed in the courtyard quietly and helped Wu Duo harvest the vegetables and finish up all his chores. The wailing inside the house gradually subsided. After a while, Wu Duo opened the door and walked over to all of them. He did not move or speak after that.

“Why are you standing here? Hurry up and find a place to sit down! It’s been a long time since we last met. Don’t you want to hear about our mentor’s experiences in Country M?” Li Xue said with a smile.

Wu Duo brought over a stool and sat opposite all of them. “I’ve really embarrassed myself today, but you’re all people I know well. You have to help me keep this a secret and not let others know that I cried today.”

“So now you know how to put on a brave front,” Qiao Mei said with a smile as she shook her head.

“Sigh... Actually, I haven’t been at ease for the past two years. I keep imagining what it would be like to see you when you come back. I’m not afraid of you scolding me or beating me up. I’m just afraid that you’ll say that I... that I’ve wasted all your hard work...” Wu Duo said guiltily in a low voice.

“Actually, I didn’t really put in much effort back then. All of you got into Capital University entirely based on your own abilities. If you don’t want to study, what’s the use even if I force you?” Qiao Mei said.

“That’s right! You must think highly of yourself!” Wang Wei said.

“I just hate... I hate myself for being so disappointing. Why did I fall into their trap again!” Wu Duo said regretfully.

“What exactly happened back then? Even if a thousand people come and tell

me that you sexually harassed Cui Hua, I still won’t believe it,” Qiao Mei said firmly.

Wu Duo’s eyes immediately reddened. To tell the story, he had to start at the point when Qiao Mei left. After she left the country, Xie Jing kept holding a grudge. He maintained the belief that the spot to study abroad should be his and that Qiao Mei had relied on her family background to get the chance to study in Country M. If he had the same kind of family background, he would not have lost to her!

However, all of this was already done and dusted. Xie Jing could not afford to offend Qiao Mei and the Xia family. Not long after, Cui Hua asked around and found out that Wu Duo was the one who found most of the witnesses who reported Xie Jing at that time. Moreover, it was Wu Duo who encouraged them to be brave and to step up to report Xie Jing.

Xie Jing blamed everything that happened to him on Wu Duo. He wanted to take revenge for both the old and new grudges between them. Since he was no longer a university student, then Wu Duo could not continue to study at Capital University either!

As the new year approached, Wu Duo and his roommates went out for a meal and drinks together. Everyone was in a joyous mood that day, so he drank a bit more than usual and was in a blur when he followed his roommates back to the dormitory. When they reached the main entrance of Capital

University, the group saw Cui Hua standing there and waiting for Wu Duo. She was crying so hard that everyone felt sorry for her..

Chapter 2020: Framed

Wu Duo's roommates did not know anything about those past issues between Cui Hua and Wu Duo. They were all from the engineering faculty and did not know much about the gossip from the agriculture faculty. Everyone thought that Cui Hua was just one of Wu Duo's admirers.

Cui Hua told them that she and Wu Duo were from the same hometown and that they had an arranged marriage since they were young. She even took out an old photo of the two of them and showed it to his roommates. Wu Duo's roommates did not suspect anything amiss and left him with Cui Hua. Then, the rest of them returned to the dormitory groggily.

At that time, Wu Duo was so dazed that he did not even know where he was. Cui Hua brought him to a bench nearby to sit down. After sitting in the wind for a while, Wu sobered up a lot. He was shocked to see that it was Cui Hua in front of him and not his roommates. He immediately wanted to get up and leave, but unexpectedly, Cui Hua hugged him and refused to let him go.

Cui Hua sobbed and related how Xie Jing had treated her badly during this period of time. As she wept, she showed Wu Duo the wounds on her arm.

Wu Duo was not interested to hear about these things. His feelings for Cui Hua were all in the past. Originally, Wu Duo had already decided not to dwell on the past, but he did not expect Cui Hua and Xie Jing to join forces to frame Qiao Mei.

Due to what they did, Wu Duo would never forgive them in this lifetime. Even if Cui Hua was suffering now, she deserved it. It was Cui Hua who was heartless enough to abandon him and choose XieJing, was it not?

Just as Wu Duo wanted to brush off Cui Hua and then return to his dormitory, Xie Jing suddenly appeared behind him and smashed the back of his head with a brick. Wu Duo instantly fell unconscious.

By the time he was conscious again, he found himself in a hotel room and Xie Jing had come in with a big group of people to catch the adulterous couple in the act.

Cui Hua and him were both lying naked under the blanket in the same bed. No matter how Wu Duo tried to explain the situation to everyone, no one believed what he said. They even said that Wu Duo was a despicable person who dared not own up to what he did!

Wu Duo was forced to take a leave of absence from school by Capital

University and very soon after that, he received a notice of expulsion. Wu Duo's university dream was officially over. His parents were both technicians. Ever since they started working at Qiao Mei's factory, their family's financial situation had been getting better and better, causing many people in the village to be jealous of them.

After what happened to Wu Duo, there were always people standing at the door of Wu Duo's house and gossiping about him. They said all kinds of unpleasant things. There were even some villagers who wanted to chase Wu Duo out of the village because they said that he had sullied the village's reputation!

Wu Duo's parents had no choice but to buy a small house for Wu Duo in a remote village in the capital. They hoped that Wu Duo could live here peacefully for the rest of his life.

The old couple did not hope for Wu Duo to be able to get rich and make a name for himself. Their only wish now was for Wu Duo not to take things too hard. They did not want to have to bury their own child!

"That's the full account of what happened," Wu Duo said.

Qiao Mei stood up and walked around Wu Duo's courtyard. There was not a

single weed to be seen in the entire courtyard. The tools in the storeroom were all placed out neatly and even the shovel had been carefully wiped clean of any soil. The windows of the house were bright and clear and the furniture in the house was very clean.

Wu Duo used the east room as his bedroom and the west room as his study room. There were many books in the house. Li Xue and Wang Wei had brought all these for him when they came to visit him.

Qiao Mei stood at the doorway and asked Wu Duo, "Do you still read often?"

Wu Duo was a student from Capital University after all. He still maintained the habit of studying. Even if he was not attending classes anymore, he could not fall behind in his pursuit of knowledge.

"Well, I'm bored anyway, so I might as well read more," Wu Duo said.

"You have done a good job in tidying up this courtyard. Looks like you didn't choose to completely let yourself go. There's still hope for you," Qiao Mei said.

Wu Duo's house was in a very good location. In the future, this would be within the three inner ring roads of the capital! Even an inch of land here would be worth a lot of money! Based on the size of Wu Duo's house, he could buy three to four large apartments next time!

"Don't sell this house and just keep it in your possession. In the future, if the government wants to acquire it, don't take money in exchange for the house. Ask for another house," Qiao Mei instructed him..